Procurement of turmeric by NAFED in A.P.

2438. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems faced by cultivators of turmeric in Andhra Pradesh, on account of steep fall in its prices;

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken or propose to take to ameliorate the problems of the farmers;

(c) whether Government have directed NAFED to start procurement of turmeric from farmers at a remunerative price; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) There is no steep fall in the prices of turmeric. The average price for the year 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 (Till February) is Rs. 42.22/ Kg, 52.78/kg, 49.45/kg and 42.53/kg respectively.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Government has not given direction to NAFED to start procurement of turmeric at a remunerative price. NAFED purchases turmeric from Nizamabad Area for export to Mauritius.

Ban on multinational in retail trade

†2439. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to ban the entry of multinational companies in the retail, to strengthen the domestic trade; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.